



LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

How-to Workshop

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- LWCF is funded through the National Park Service
- Division of Conservation Services administers the program for NPS
- Funding can be used for both conservation and recreation projects – don't let the application form confuse you



IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Make sure to use the **Land and Water Conservation Fund application package** (it is the first grant referenced on the “Grant Programs offered by Division of Conservation Services” webpage), not the LAND or PARC applications
- Also apply for LAND or PARC funding – these applications should be posted by the end of March 2010



IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- This is a federal grant program and is subject to National Park Service approval, as well as federal rules and regulations
- Total funding amount has not yet been determined as the apportionment letter has not been received as of today



REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS

- Applicants must have a current Open Space and Recreation Plan
 - It is possible to submit it at the same time as the grant application
- Acquisition projects must have an appraisal done to Yellow Book standards
 - Must also submit a review appraisal if more than \$500,000
- Applications are due by March 31, 2010 at 3:00 pm at our Boston office
- Reimbursement rate is 50% for all communities with a maximum grant award of \$500,000



ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

- Conservation projects:
 - Purchase land in fee simple or conservation restriction
 - Land will be under the care and control of the Conservation Commission
- Recreation projects:
 - Purchase recreation land
 - Develop new recreational facilities
 - Renovate existing parks
 - Land must be dedicated as parkland



ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

- For acquisition projects:
 - Reimbursement is based on purchase price or approved appraised value, whichever is less
- For renovation/development projects:
 - Engineering
 - Design
 - Construction
 - Construction supervision
- We cannot reimburse for donations or in-kind services
- Must have 100% municipal funding



SELECTION PROCESS

- All projects are visited by DCS staff, then rated and ranked (rating system is included in the application package)
- Recommendations are approved by the Secretary
- Recommendations are approved by the National Park Service
- Anticipated grant award announcement date is July 2010 (this is an estimate)
- Project completion date will be September 2011 for acquisition projects, September 2012 for construction projects



MUNICIPAL VOTES

- All projects must have a town meeting or city council vote
- The vote will:
 - Authorize grant application
 - Approve appropriation of 100% of the total project cost
 - Dedicate the land to recreation or conservation purposes
- Sample vote language is in application package
- **Send all draft vote language to me for approval**
- Vote can occur after application deadline



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Become familiar with the rating system and make sure that the project description hits on all areas where the project could receive points
 - Rareness
 - Relevance to statewide and local plans
 - Public participation
 - Accessibility
 - Innovation
 - Environmental impact



LWCF PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM

- First of all, I'm sorry
- Requirement of the National Park Service
- A fillable version of the form can be found online at www.nps.gov/lwcf
- Click on “publications, logo, and forms” link on the left – PD/ESF is in the first group of forms, fifth one down the list
- While on the NPS's website, check out the LWCF Manual



POST-COMPLETION RESPONSIBILITIES

- All sites that receive LWCF funding are protected by both Article 97 and Section 6(f), which means the land must remain as conservation or recreation land in perpetuity
- Site must be open to all – this includes both non-residents and the handicapped
- Fair fee policy
- Sign requirements



OTHER THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Please use binder clips to fasten applications together – no binders, folders, plastic sleeves, etc.
- We require one original and two copies – make it clear which are the copies
- Double-sided copies please
- Clearly mark all attachments and use the application form as an attachment checklist
- Maintain the format of the application form – this isn't the time to use your favorite font
- Focus on the big picture – if one thing is filled in incorrectly, the application will (most likely) still be eligible



CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Remember – open question period ends on
March 24, 2010, so get your questions
answered before then**

